

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, April 16, 2024

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: ‘OUTCOME OF THE WAR OF 1812’ EXHIBIT LOAN
AGREEMENT WITH THE MISSISSAUGAS OF THE CREDIT
FIRST NATION

FROM:

Michael Coroneos, Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services, City Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek Council’s direction for the City of Vaughan to obtain a loan of the ‘Outcome of the War of 1812’ Exhibit (the “Exhibit”) from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (the “MCFN”) and showcase it in honour of National Indigenous History Month.

Report Highlights

- The City of Vaughan has proclaimed June 2024 National Indigenous History Month.
- The Exhibit tells the story of the MCFN who fought alongside the British in the war of 1812 and settled the Toronto Purchase Specific Claim in 2010, and their connection to Toronto’s land and waters.
- The City of Vaughan seeks to borrow and showcase the Exhibit from the MCFN as part of Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action 45iii & 57, which pertain to respect for treaty relationships and call for related professional development and training.
- Having the Exhibit prominently displayed in Vaughan will share a First Nations perspective on Canada’s history, provide an opportunity for residents of Vaughan to recognize and learn about traditions and history of one of the First Nations communities closest to Vaughan and promote understanding, reconciliation and respect for Indigenous cultures.

Recommendations

1. That Staff be authorized to proceed with all necessary negotiations and arrangements in connection with the loan of the Exhibit to the City;
2. That the Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services, City Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, or designate, be authorized to sign a loan agreement and any other required documentation with respect to the loan of the Exhibit to the City, in a form satisfactory to Legal Services, and to take any other actions necessary or ancillary to entering into the agreement; and
3. That the Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services, City Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, or designate, be authorized to amend the loan agreement or any associated documentation, or to terminate the loan agreement as necessary, in consultation with Legal Services.

Background

Vaughan is situated on the territory and Treaty 13 lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. These lands are also the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people. Vaughan is currently home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit people today.

The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) have a reserve near Hagersville, Ontario, about 38 kilometres southwest of Hamilton. It has roughly 2,570 members, with nearly two-thirds living off reserve. The First Nation is part of the Ojibwe (Anishinaabe) Nation. The City of Vaughan continually strives to strengthen its relationship with MCFN.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action 45iii is part of a broader set of recommendations aimed at addressing the legacies of residential schools and advancing the process of Canadian reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Specifically, Call to Action 45iii calls upon Canadians to “Renew or establish Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future.”

Call to Action 57 “call[s] upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.”

Both Calls to Action are part of a comprehensive effort by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to address the injustices and lasting impacts of Canada's residential school system on Indigenous communities and to lay the groundwork for reconciliation and a better future. The City of Vaughan is committed to working in harmony with these calls to action.

Previous Reports/Authority

n/a

Analysis and Options

The City of Vaughan has proclaimed the month of June as National Indigenous History Month for 2024

The City of Vaughan has proclaimed June 2024 as National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, 2024, to honour and recognize Indigenous peoples and history in Vaughan and across Canada. Indigenous History Month is an opportunity to recognize and learn about the traditions and histories of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people and to promote understanding, reconciliation and respect for Indigenous cultures.

During Indigenous History Month, the City proudly honours the rich heritage and vibrant cultures of Indigenous peoples in Canada and acknowledges their unique roles and stewardship of the sacred land we call home.

The War of 1812 Exhibit

The Exhibit teaches visitors about the long-term consequences of the War of 1812 for the First Nations through the experience of the MCFN.

The story tells of a people who have a historic and meaningful connection to the land and waters of the Toronto area. Their ancestors were allied with the British and fought in the war. Almost 200 years later, they concluded a fair and just settlement of the Toronto Purchase Specific Claim in 2010.

The display includes cases and tables which will display artifacts and historically important items. Posters and an education panel will tell the background story while explaining the importance of each item. Educational booklets and reading materials will accompany the Exhibit to describe the work.

Borrowing the Exhibit will provide the City with the opportunity to honour the MCFN and to share the knowledge to be gained from it with residents of and visitors to Vaughan

The City of Vaughan is delighted to have the opportunity to borrow the Exhibit and to showcase it during Indigenous Heritage Month. This Exhibit holds great historical significance, and we are eager to display it to honour the MCFN.

From May 28th to July 3rd, 2024, the Exhibit will be displayed at the entrance of Vaughan City Hall (Alcove 2). Following this period, it will be displayed at Vaughan Public Library's Pierre Berton Resource Library from July 5th to Aug. 2nd, 2024.

Having the Exhibit showcased in this way will share a First Nations perspective on Canada's history with a particular focus on the era of the war of 1812 and its effects. It will provide an opportunity for residents of Vaughan to recognize and learn about traditions and history of one of the First Nations communities geographically closest to Vaughan and promote understanding, reconciliation and respect for Indigenous cultures.

The Exhibit will be fully insured during the transportation periods and while it is in the City's possession to mitigate any risk.

The Exhibit will be fully insured while it is in the City's possession and during the periods it is being transported in a manner that complies with City's normal processes for the borrowing of artwork and artifacts owned by a third party.

Financial Impact

Transportation

Transportation costs for the Exhibit, which includes careful handling of delicate historical items, are projected at an estimated amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). This figure accounts for secure transport services to be arranged by the City from 1) the Community Centre on the reserve near Hagersville to City Hall; 2) City Hall to Pierre Berton Resource Library; and 3) Pierre Berton Resource Library back to the Community Centre near Hagersville, totaling a distance of approximately 270 km.

Honorarium

The City will provide MCFN with an honorarium totalling one thousand, five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) in recognition of the opportunity to borrow and display the Exhibit. This honorarium is a gesture of appreciation for the sharing of their cultural heritage by the MCFN and will serve to strengthen the relationship between the City and the MCFN community.

The financial impact of these expenditures is confined to the current fiscal period, with no anticipated recurring costs. The funding for both the transportation of the Exhibit and the honorarium will be drawn from the existing capital budget allocations. The necessary funds are available within the current budget framework of the Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer, thus negating the need for additional budgetary amendments.

Operational Impact

In preparation for borrowing the Exhibit, consultations have been conducted with multiple departments within the City to ensure a cohesive operational approach.

In particular, the departments of Facilities Management, Communications and Engagement, Vaughan Public Libraries, Archives, Economic Development, Legal Services, and the Clerk's Office have been integral to the planning process, offering their specialized input to align all aspects and expertise in anticipation of hosting the Exhibit. This includes selection and logistics of venue, communication and marketing plans and transportation. Collaboration between these departments will continue so as to ensure a seamless and successful experience.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

The showcasing of the Exhibit at City Hall and later at Pierre Berton Resource Library represents not only a local initiative but also an event of regional interest with significant historical relevance. The Town of Aurora has expressed interest in showcasing the Exhibit in Aurora Town Square from August 4th to September 30th, 2024, which demonstrates the Exhibit's regional appeal and the collaborative spirit among municipalities within the York Region.

The interest expressed by partners within York Region to host the Exhibit reflects a collective engagement in cultural exchange and public education. The City of Vaughan is actively engaged in discussions with other civic partners who are interested in exploring potential hosting opportunities. This regional dialogue is instrumental in expanding the reach and impact of the Exhibit, promoting a wider appreciation of Indigenous heritage and contributions.

Conclusion

A successful showcasing of the Exhibit, will contribute to the City's celebration of National Indigenous History Month and its advancement of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

This initiative will provide an opportunity for residents of Vaughan to obtain knowledge of Indigenous heritage and learn about a piece of history through the lens of an indigenous community. It will also strengthen the relationship of the City of Vaughan and its residents with the MCFN.

Directing staff to proceed with this initiative will support the City's promotion of Indigenous Heritage Month and result in benefits to the City and its residents while underscoring the City's commitment to strengthening its relationship with MCFN.

For more information, please contact: Zincia Francis, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Ext. 8159.

Attachments

None.

Prepared by

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Approved by



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